

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MARCH 1 AND 2: HIGH-  
LIGHTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 1-2 DEALT WITH A NUMBER OF TOPICS INCLUDING: DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT; 100-MILE MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONES; PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO CIEC; THE EXPANSION OF CAPITAL FOR THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK; THE EC-MAGHREB NEGOTIATIONS; THE AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL; THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO CEMA'S PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT; UNIFORM PASSPORTS; THE JOINT EUROPEAN TAURUS; A POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE DEVELOP-  
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MENT COUNCIL, AND AN INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING.

THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION RELATING TO ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA; EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S VISIT TO CANADA AND THE US AND THE EC'S TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER IN THE MTN HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY, AS HAVE THE RESULTS OF THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED SEVERAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH DRAFTING A CONVENTION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THESE INCLUDED THE NAME OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE NUMBER OF SEATS AND THEIR APPORTIONMENT, BRITISH AND DANISH RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE INITIAL ROUND OF ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN 1978, AS WELL AS THE DAY TO BE SELECTED FOR THE BALLOTING. THE FRENCH REFUSED CATEGORICALLY TO PERMIT THE ENLARGED PARLIAMENT TO BE OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE "EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT," ARGUING STEAD THAT IT SHOULD BE KNOWN AS AN "ASSEMBLY." LITTLE INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN THE NAME QUESTION BY OTHER DELEGATIONS ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DID POINT OUT THAT THE WORD "PARLIAMENT" WAS USED IN THE LOME CONVENTION AND THAT THEREFORE THE FRENCH WERE PROBABLY FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. THERE WAS, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, LITTLE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE ENLARGED PARLIAMENT OR THEIR DISTRIBUTION. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON APRIL 1 AND 2. CALLAGHAN, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER HE THOUGHT A SOLUTION COULD BE REACHED AT THAT TIME. UK TRADE MINISTER PETER SHORE, WHO FILLED IN FOR CALLAGHAN DURING THE SECOND DAY OF THE COUNCIL, WAS EQUALLY NEGATIVE REGARDING RESOLUTION OF THE SEAT QUESTION.

3. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS MADE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE DAY OF THE WEEK ON WHICH ELECTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE, NOTING THE HISTORICAL DIFFERENCES IN VOTING PROCEDURES AMONG THE MEMBER STATES. THE BELGIANS ADVANCED THE SUGGESTION THAT BALLOTING MIGHT PERHAPS BE SPREAD OVER TWO DAYS, WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH TRADITIONALLY VOTE ON SUNDAY DOING SO AND OTHER COUNTRIES VOTING ON MONDAY. THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE BALLOT BOXES BE SEALED AND THAT NO COUNTING BEGIN UNTIL THE POLLS CLOSED MONDAY EVENING. NO DECISION WAS TAKEN AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MATTER WILL BE FURTHER STUDIED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

4. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PHRASING OF THE RESERVATION PERMITTING THE BRITISH AND DANES TO APPOINT, RATHER THAN ELECT, THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 1978 ROUND OF ELECTIONS SHOULD THEY SO CHOOSE. THE DANISH DELEGATION URGED THAT THESE RESERVATIONS BE PHRASED SO AS NOT TO MENTION DENMARK BY NAME. COUNCIL SOURCES TOLD US THAT THIS

EFFORT WAS SOUNDLY REJECTED AND THAT THE FEELING OF THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WAS THAT IF THE DANES (AND THE BRITISH) WANTED A SPECIAL DISPENSATION THEY WOULD HAVE TO STAND UP AND ASK FOR IT. ACCORDING TO A LUXEMBOURG SOURCE, DANISH MINISTER NORGAAARD TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE THOUGHT DENMARK WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ROUND OF ELECTIONS PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT BACKED INTO A CORNER ON THE ISSUE DURING THE DRAFTING OF THE CONVENTION.

5. MEETING WITH EP DELEGATION: THE COUNCIL MET WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LED BY PRESIDENT GEORGES SPENALE FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS. NO DECISIONS WERE EXPECTED OR TAKEN, ALTHOUGH THE PARLIAMENTARIANS APPEARED PLEASED THAT THE MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE. SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS FOLLOWING THE MEETING, EP MEMBER PATIJN, THE AUTHOR OF THE EP'S REPORT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE QUESTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS WOULD BE RESOLVED AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. PATIJN SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT BE USED BY SOME MEMBER STATES AS AN EXCUSE TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS BEYOND THE 1978 TARGET DATE.

6. CIEC: THE MINISTERS RECIEVED A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENCY

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REGARDING THE FIRST ROUND OF MEETINGS OF THE CIEC COMMISSIONS WHICH WERE HELD IN PARIS ON FEBRUARY 11-20. THE NOTE, WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO FOCUS THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION ON THE NEXT ROUND OF COMMISSION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17-24, POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE AN OVERALL PERCEPTION OF ITS AIMS FOR THE FOUR COMMISSIONS, RATHER THAN TO CONCENTRATE ON SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR EACH GROUP. THE NOTE FURTHER POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ADOPT POSITIONS IN ADVANCE OF THESE SESSIONS BUT URGED THAT POSITIONS BE DRAFTED SO AS TO GIVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEGOTIATORS GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO PERMIT THEM TO FUNCTION "DYNAMICALLY" IN PARIS. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO THE AIMS SET FORTH IN THE LUXEMBOURG NOTE WITH THE CAVEAT THAN ANY BROADENING OF THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE COMMUNITY'S REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS SHOULD

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NOT REDUCE THE COORDINATING ROLE OF COREPER. THE MINISTERS FURTHER AGREED ON THE NEED TO RECORD AND DISSEMINATE QUICKLY THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION MEETINGS SO THAT ALL MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE COMMUNITY'S VIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS WITHIN A SHORT TIME FOLLOWING THEIR CONCLUSION. CIEC IS EXPECTED TO AGAIN BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5-6.

7. EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGENDA: THE MINISTERS APPROVED THE AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) WHICH WILL BE HELD IN LUXEMBOURG APRIL 1 AND 2. INCLUDED WILL BE DISCUSSIONS OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT, THE DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND, AT THE SUGGESTION OF BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN, A DISCUSSION ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE PROBLEMS OF STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT. TO AID IN DISCUSSION OF THE LATER ITEM THE EC COMMISSION IS TO PREPARE A SHORT PAPER OUTLINING THE PROBLEM AS IT STANDS AT PRESENT AND MAKING PREDICTIONS ON STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS THROUGH 1980. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS, CALLAGHAN SAID THAT IT WAS THE BRITISH INTENTION THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DECIDE WHICH OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS (THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, FINANCE MINISTERS, FOREIGN MINISTERS OR LABOR MINISTERS) SHOULD TAKE LEAD

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING MEMBER STATE EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. (CALLAGHAN ALSO NOTED THAT, FORMAL AGENDAS NOTWITHSTANDING, ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING PREROGATIVES OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WAS THEIR ABILITY TO DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT AS THEY CHOSE. HE THEREFORE CAUTIONED THE PRESS NOT TO EXPECT THAT THE AGENDA APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL WOULD REPRESENT THE ONLY SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN LUXEMBOURG.)

8. EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK: THE MINISTERS AGREED TO THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM THE EXPANSION OF THE EIB'S LENDING ACTIVITIES IN NON-MEMBER STATES SUCH AS TURKEY, PORTUGAL, GREECE AND THE MASHREK COUNTRIES. THE WORKING GROUP IS TO REPORT TO COREPER IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO ALLOW A DECISION ON A POSSIBLE INCREASE IN THE EIB CAPITAL OR MODIFICATION OF EIB PROCEDURES TO BE DETERMINED DURING THE JOINT SESSION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTERS AND FINANCE MINISTERS IN LUXEMBOURG APRIL 5 AND 6.

9. EC/MAGHREB: EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL THAT, ON MARCH 1, THE COMMISSION HAD INITIALED ACCORDS WITH MOROCCO AND TUNISIA. THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THAT THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) EXAMINE THE AGREEMENTS AND SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MOROCCO AND TUNISIA HAD DELAYED INITIALING THESE NEW AGREEMENTS PENDING "CLARIFICATION" OF ELEMENTS IN THE MAGHREB AGREEMENTS WHICH FAVORED ALGERIA, FREE ACCESS TO THE FRENCH MARKET FOR CITRUS, BETTER TERMS FOR WINE, (SEE RABAT 1201.) THESE SUBSEQUENT CLARIFICATIONS ARE DESCRIBED BY COMMISSION NEGOTIATORS AS "WINDOW DRESSING" AND TAKE THE FORM OF DECLARATIONS OF INTERPRETATION ANNEXED TO THE ACCORDS. (TEXTS WILL BE POUCHED WHEN AVAILABLE.) OUR SOURCES DO NOT EXPECT ANY REAL DIFFICULTY IN THE AD REFERENDUM APPROVAL PROCEDURE AND FORMAL SIGNATURE COULD OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF MARCH.

10. RESEARCH COUNCIL POST MORTEM: EXERCISING THEIR COORDINATING ROLE AGREED TO AT LUCCA, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REVIEWED PROGRESS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDAS OF OTHER COUNCILS. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION AT THE INABILITY OF THE FEBRUARY 24 RESEARCH COUNCIL TO REACH A DECISION ON THE LOCATION OF THE JOINT EUROPEAN TAURUS (JET). THE DUTCH SUGGESTED, WITH UK SUPPORT, THAT, AS THE PURPOSE OF THE JOINT FOREIGN MINISTERS/FINANCE MINISTERS COUNCIL WOULD BE TO SET BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMING YEAR, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THEN TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE SITING OF THE JET. THIS WOULD, THEY SAID, BE PREFERABLE TO WAITING FOR THE NEXT RESEARCH COUNCIL, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY

SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 18. THE DUTCH SUGGESTIONS WAS ACCEPTED AND JET HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE APRIL 5-6 AGENDA. SHOULD THE MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS SO DESIRE THEY MAY ALSO INVITE THEIR MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCH TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

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11. EC-CEMA: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, DURING THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THEIR MEETING, DECIDED ON A RESPONSE TO BE GIVEN TO GDR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WEISS. THE COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE, WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED VIA THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY, THANKS WEISS FOR HIS VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG AND FOR THE DRAFT AGREEMENT PROPOSED BY CEMA. IT NOTES THAT THE CEMA DRAFT REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION OF EC-CEMA CONTACTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL STUDY THE CEMA DRAFT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN

PROCEDURES. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS, AN EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME TIME WILL BE NEEDED FOR THE COMMUNITY TO DEFINE ITS RESPONSE AND THAT THE NOTE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN NO WAY WILL PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF THE COMMUNITY'S EXAMINATION OF THE ACCORD.

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12. POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: THE MINISTERS INSTRUCTED COREPER TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN ADVANCE OF THE APRIL 5/6 JOINT MEETING OF FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTERS.

13. INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING: THE MINISTERS CONFIRMED THE DATES OF MAY 14 AND 15 FOR THEIR INFORMAL GET TOGETHER IN LUXEMBOURG, ON THE GYMnich PATTERN.

14. UNIFORM PASSPORT: IN THE INTERESTS OF TIME, THE MINISTERS DID NOT CONSIDER PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE HARMONIZATION OF PASSPORTS ISSUED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

15. 200-MILE MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONES: THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE PROPOSALS FOR MANAGING THE COMMUNITY'S 200-MILE MARITIME ECONOMIC ZONE SHOULD THIS RESULT FROM THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, BRITAIN AND IRELAND, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT DENMARK, ALL ARGUED THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR A 12-MILE "NATIONAL ZONE OF CONTROL" WITHIN THE LARGER 200-MILE ZONE WOULD BE INADEQUATE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO SPECIFIC COUNTERPROPOSALS WERE ADVANCED IN THE MEETING, ALTHOUGH ZONES OF 25 AND 50 MILES WERE MENTIONED "IN THE CORRIDORS."

16. THE REGULATION OF FISHING CATCHES BY QUOTA WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD OBJECTED STRONGLY TO THE FIXING OF QUOTAS ON THE BASIS OF HISTORICAL CATCH PATTERNS, SAYING THAT IRELAND'S FISHING INDUSTRY WAS UNDERDEVELOPED AND SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO EXPAND EXPLOITATION OF WHAT HE TERMED ONE OF IRELAND'S FEW NATURAL RESOURCES. THE DANISH DELEGATION, SUPPORTED BY IRELAND, SAID THAT QUOTAS SHOULD NOT BE FIXED BY SPECIES ON A GLOBAL BASIS BUT SHOULD ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HISTORICAL FISHING AREAS.

17. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POLICING OF THE ZONE BETWEEN THE AREA OF NATIONAL CONTROL AND ANY 200-MILE COUNTRY LIMIT. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE COMMISSION'S ABILITY TO OPERATE A FLEET OF FISHERIES PROTECTION VESSELS. SPEAKING WITH THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL SESSIONS, FITZGERALD SAID THAT WHILE IT MIGHT PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE EMPLOYMENT, HE DID NOT SEE THE

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IRISH GOVERNMENT SETTING UP A FISHERIES PROTECTION FLEET  
TO PATROL THE AREAS 200 MILES OUT FROM THE IRISH COAST.  
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## Message Attributes

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